

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01368 300910Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5441
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1368

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PROP, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOS,OVAK COMMENTS ON RFE AND VOA

REF PRAGUE 1081

1. MEDIA HAVE BEEN INFORMING CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLIC OF ADMINISTRATIONS
DECISION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR RFE/RL AND VOA, DESCRIBING
ALL THREE AS "SUBVERSIVE, DIVERSIONARY TRANSMITTERS" (NOVA MYSL,
MAY 1978). A NUMBER OF CZECHS, HOWEVER, HAVE TOLD US THEY HEARTILY
APPROVE OF OUR UPGRADING THESE STATIONS CAPACITIES.
RECENTLY ONE CZECH APPROACHED AN EMBOFF AT A RECEPTION AND ASKED
HIM TO CONVEY HIS THANKS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR APPROVING
ADDITIONAL RFE/RL FUNDS.

2. A PROTESTANT PREACHER FROM JICIN IN NORTH BOHEMIA REPORTS HE
RECEIVES RFE CLEARLY IN AFTERNOON, DESPITE JAMMING. HE KNOWS
BY NAME RFE BROADCASTERS JEDINSKY, SLAVA VOLNY AND SULE. THE
SAME MAN KNEW SKVORECKY AND CERMAK OF VOA CZECH SERVICE WHICH
HE PRAISED FOR CERMAK'S PROGRAMS ABOUT THE
UNITED STATES. HE LAUDED BOTH STATIONS FOR BEING
WELL-INFORMED ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAK AFFAIRS.

3. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT RFE IS ENOUGH OF AN INSTITUTION IN
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PRAGUE, DESPITE JAMMING, TO HAVE EARNED THE NICKNAME "SVOBODNICE,"
A SLANG CONTRACTION OF THE WORDS FOR FREE EUROPE. A NUMBER OF
CHARTER 77 SIGNERS HAVE TOLD US THEY DEPEND ON RFE AND VOA TO
KEEP ABREASE OF DISSIDENT AFFAIRS ESLEWHERE, FOR EXAMPLE,
THE RECENT TRIAL OF ORLOV IN MOSCOW.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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